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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN JOINT COMMISSION

- 1. DURING JULY 6 MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR TOON AND SSM DIRECTOR KONTOS, MINDEF PERES WAS ASKED IF HE VIEWED THE JOINT COMMISSION AS A USEFUL FORUM. HIS RESPONSE WAS DECIDEDLY POSITIVE. HE SAID IT WAS A VEHICLE WHICH ENCOURAGED DE FACTO COOPERATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. SEVERAL POINTS OF CONTENTION HAVE BEEN RESOLVED AS A RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION.
- 2. ACCORDING TO PERES, EGYPT HAS RECENTLY REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MEETINGS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS, SOME OF WHICH PERES DESCRIBED AS "TOUCHY." THE COMMISSION HAS MET TWICE TO DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS. PERES SAID THAT AGREEMENT ON SEVERAL OF THE AREAS WAS REACHED ON THE SPOT AND OTHERS ARE STILL IN NEGOTIATION. AT EGYPT'S REQUEST, NO PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN THESE MEETINGS.
- 3. THE ONLY SPECIFIC POINT CITED BY PERES WAS THE ISSUE OF BORDER TRANSIT BY RESIDENTS OF EGYPT AND GAZA STRIP. PERES CLAIMED THAT ISRAELI FOOT-DRAGGING RESULTED FROM FEAR OF REPORTED EPIDEMIC OF PLAGUE IN EGYPT, BUT THAT FEARS HAVE NOW BEEN ALLAYED.

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Subject: ISRAELI/EGYPTIAN JOINT COMMISSION

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG To: STATE

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